

Wallace Named Miss American Angus

by Crystal Albers

The crowning of Miss American Angus is a long-held tradition during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) — and an opportunity for one young Angus woman to promote the breed both inside and outside the showing.

Paige Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., was crowned the 2011 Miss American Angus, Monday, Nov. 15, in Louisville, Ky.

Wallace was among five young women competing for the title, including Hannah Wright, Spring City, Tenn.; Mollie Lastovica, Fredericksburg, Texas; Kassandra Pfeiffer, Orlando, Okla.; and Allison Dubs, Billings, Mont.

Wallace was crowned prior to the announcement of the grand champion bull during the Super-Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Bull Show at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center (KFEC).

The annual Miss American Angus contest is sponsored by the American Angus Auxiliary and provides one Angus junior an opportunity to promote the breed as an Angus ambassador. Miss American Angus assists with shows, educational events, field days and additional activities to educate others about the breed and the benefits of Angus beef.

“Miss American Angus serves as an example of the bright, successful, dedicated and driven people that make up the Angus breed,” say sisters Lindsey Trospers DeWitte and Whitney Trospers Renfro, co-chairs of the Auxiliary’s Miss American Angus committee who both formerly served in the position. “She is an ambassador for the Angus breed and a role model to other youth,

not only those youth involved in agriculture, but to youth all over the country.”

Wallace says she plans to continue that focus, specifically within the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

“I’ve been involved in Angus as long as I can remember,” she says. “I started showing cattle at 8 years old and was influenced by the Trospers and others who previously served as Miss American Angus. They, along with junior board members, played such a positive role in my childhood; I want to give back and provide that for others,” she says.

Each year, five young women are chosen as candidates for the position through the Auxiliary’s scholarship program. Each completes a written test, delivers a prepared speech, completes an interview and answers impromptu questions from a panel of judges.

Wallace was the winner of the first-place, \$1,400 Auxiliary scholarship awarded earlier this year during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo. The 19-year-old is a freshman in agricultural communications at Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan., where she participates on the livestock judging team and plans to continue her involvement in the Angus breed.

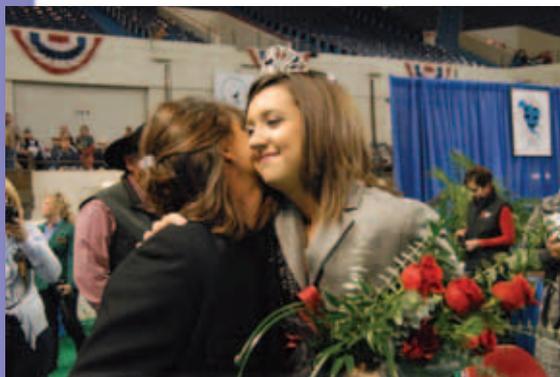
Wallace has served as the president of the Missouri Junior Angus Association and was active in 4-H and FFA, among other activities. She succeeds the 2010 Miss American Angus Sally Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C.

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Editor’s Note: Crystal Albers is assistant director of communications and web editor for the American Angus Association.



►The American Angus Auxiliary crowned Paige Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., as its 2011 Miss American Angus. Pictured are (from left) Anne Lampe, Auxiliary president-elect; Kathi Creamer, advisor; Wallace; Barbara Ettredge, president; and Cortney Hill-Dukehart, secretary-treasurer.



►Miss American Angus Paige Wallace gets a congratulatory hug from Mom, Tammy Wallace.



►All five contestants assisted with ring responsibilities during the NAILE Junior Angus Heifer Show and Super-Point ROV Angus Show.

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- ▶ All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Committee: American Angus Breeders' Futurity travel
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- ▶ Sally Yon, 2010 Miss American Angus, South Carolina: Miss American Angus official pin
- ▶ Harry Bachman, Pennsylvania: contestant luncheon

Measuring Worth

Paige Wallace shares the speech that helped her earn this year's title as Miss American Angus.

by **Paige Wallace**, 2011 Miss American Angus

Sacks and bins full of cottonseed hulls, corn and the special "Wallace mix" filled the feed room as I stood on my tippy toes, digging the full length of my arm into the feed sack. At a young age, scooping the feed for the show heifers was something I fought my brother for the chance to do. As I developed into my teenage years, it became more of a hassle. Today, I miss it.

Measuring out the right mixture for my heifers became routine for me. The hours spent scooping and trying different combinations of feed was always worth my time when I received that purple banner in the ring.

Measuring the worth of something helps us determine its value in our lives. I chose three household tools to measure the worth of my life.

A ruler

First, a ruler. I, like every young adult, have transitioned through many stages in my life, but it's the combination of those stages that makes me who I am.

I was once the chunky kid with abnormally large cheeks. Then came the awkward stage of being the skinny girl with glasses and braces (each of these phases was welcomed by my father, of course). Eventually I became more comfortable with myself as I transitioned into high school. In fact, I can still remember my Grandpa asking me if I paid half price for those "used" holey jeans that were in style my freshman year.

Although image is a big part of growing up, today I work to place more of my focus on



► 2011 Miss American Angus Paige Wallace, Stotts City, Mo.

measuring my self-worth and who I truly am.

Just like me, the American Angus Association has grown throughout its 127-year history. And this breed's ability to measure its success has enabled it to grow and react to the challenges that are thrown its way.

When George Grant brought four bulls to the United States in 1873, his cattle were considered "freaks," but if Grant hadn't realized the true value of his cattle and had listened to everyone else, the largest, most progressive breed in the country may have never developed into what it is today: a tradition that has gone the distance and withstood the test of time.

A measuring cup

The next item is a measuring cup. This tool can often be found in the drawers of almost any kitchen, as it is vital to the success of every level of chef. On the other hand, I consider my cooking expertise to be geared more toward the assistance of a microwave, but from what my mother tells me, if you forget to include a cup of flour in your recipe, it can be disastrous to the morning's biscuits and gravy.

In the same respect, we need to measure out the ingredients in our life and recognize the importance of each. This previous

summer my brother, Sam, was fortunate to receive Grand Champion Steer at the National Junior Angus Show. The time he spent adding to his “success measuring cup” every day meant that by the time the show came around, the volume of his efforts combined gave him the greatest advantage in the judge’s eyes. His preparation proved to be the flour of his success.

We must not only measure the volume of our work, but we also need to take time to measure the volume of our decisions. The representatives of the National Junior Angus Association make many decisions that not only affect them, but the entire association. Junior Board members, regional managers and junior activities employees all hold responsibilities that require them to set a good example.

In my lifetime I have had the privilege of experiencing the presence of four Miss American Angus queens from Missouri. Each of these girls has evolved into a woman that I respect, and I can honestly say that their encouragement and involvement in my life pushed me to have a passion for this organization.

Knowing the volume of your decisions and how they will affect others is what truly makes a leader.

A scale

And finally, the third item is a scale. Weighing out our options is something we all do on a daily basis. Where is the cheapest gas, the best value on the feed we buy, or the amount of money we’re willing to spend on that pair of boots we can’t live without — at least in my case, anyway. The fact is, no matter what choice we have to make — some are more important than others — but what needs to happen to truly make the best decision is to weigh out the pros and cons of each option.

Early this spring I faced a decision of where I would be attending school in the coming fall. The years of my high school career plan had always been to become a Missouri state FFA officer. Yet, the fall of my senior year I was offered a scholarship to join the livestock judging team at Butler Community College.

I had to weigh out the opportunities that each position offered, each of them leading me down a different path in life. Each option offered different friends, different lifestyles and different opportunities. It took me months, a number of conversations, and a great amount of prayer to come to the decision that Butler was the place for me. I measured the worth of Butler and what it could do in my life.

Still, every day we make smaller, less life-changing decisions. Consumers often face the decision of what meat to buy in the grocery store. They consider price, safety and, most of all, quality. Consumers have proven that *Certified Angus Beef*® is worthy of their money as it continues to live up to its science-based specifications.

I’m always reminded of my younger years of scooping the feed to have the right amounts of ingredients that will combine to make the most effective mixes. Just like mixing feed, we find the right ways to weigh out our decisions and use the tools that give us the most productive outcomes in our lives.

I think it’s only human to try to measure one’s own merit. But to me the bigger question is, can you ever truly measure your own self-worth? Truth is, self-worth can’t be measured by inches on a ruler, ounces in a measuring cup or pounds on a scale.

I believe the lasting value of leaders is measured by the lives they touch. With the right tools and the mindset that we should “never settle,” our worth to others will start to grow. That’s when you become a leader, and what better place for the birth of leaders than the great breed we all call ourselves a part of — the Angus breed.

